

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 193**

Introduced By: Howard, 9  
Read first time: January 9, 2007  
Committee: Education

A BILL

1       FOR AN ACT relating to teachers and administrators; to amend  
2               section 79-807, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to  
3               permit the creation of a special authorization; to specify  
4               requirements; to prescribe duties; to harmonize provisions;  
5               and to repeal the original section.

6       Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) The department may designate a special  
2 authorization upon submission of a proposal by at least one teacher  
3 education program of a standard institution of higher education. In  
4 proposing the special authorization to the department, the teacher  
5 education program shall present evidence of public interest in the  
6 special authorization that may be less than the level needed to  
7 warrant the development of a full endorsement. The special  
8 authorization shall not be deemed, in whole or in part, a certificate  
9 or permit. The special authorization shall constitute a separate  
10 document signed by the commissioner.

11           (2) The special authorization described in subsection (1)  
12 of this section shall include:

13           (a) Fifteen to eighteen credit hours designed to address a  
14 content area for which there is no endorsement;

15           (b) A practicum and a methods course that are in addition  
16 to the credit hours described in subdivision (a) of this subsection;

17           (c) Documented course credits that may be applied toward a  
18 related endorsement; and

19           (d) Relevant course work taken at an institution of higher  
20 education that is in addition to the credit hours described in  
21 subdivision (a) of this subsection.

22           Sec. 2. Section 79-807, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
23 Nebraska, is amended to read:

24           79-807. For purposes of sections 79-806 to 79-815 and  
25 section 1 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

26           (1) Basic skills competency means either (a) proficiency in  
27 (i) the written use of the English language, (ii) reading,

1 comprehending, and interpreting professional writing and other written  
2 materials, and (iii) working with fundamental mathematical  
3 computations as demonstrated by successful completion of an  
4 examination designated by the board taken by teacher education  
5 students at a standard institution of higher education or (b)  
6 successful employment experiences;

7 (2) Board means the State Board of Education;

8 (3) Certificate means an authorization issued by the  
9 commissioner to an individual who meets the qualifications to engage  
10 in teaching, providing special services, or administering in  
11 prekindergarten through grade twelve in the elementary and secondary  
12 schools in this state;

13 (4) Commissioner means the Commissioner of Education;

14 (5) Department means the State Department of Education;

15 (6) Human relations training means course work or employment  
16 experiences that lead to (a) an awareness and understanding of the  
17 values, lifestyles, contributions, and history of a pluralistic  
18 society, (b) the ability to recognize and deal with dehumanizing  
19 biases, including, but not limited to, sexism, racism, prejudice, and  
20 discrimination, and an awareness of the impact such biases have on  
21 interpersonal relations, (c) the ability to translate knowledge of  
22 human relations into attitudes, skills, and techniques which result in  
23 favorable experiences for students, (d) the ability to recognize the  
24 ways in which dehumanizing biases may be reflected in instructional  
25 materials, (e) respect for human dignity and individual rights, and  
26 (f) the ability to relate effectively to other individuals and to  
27 groups in a pluralistic society other than the applicant's own;

1           (7) Special education training means course work or  
2 employment experiences that provide an individual with the knowledge  
3 of (a) the exceptional needs of the disabilities defined under the  
4 Special Education Act, (b) the major characteristics of each  
5 disability in order to recognize its existence in children, (c) the  
6 various alternatives for providing the least restrictive environment  
7 for children with disabilities, (d) methods of teaching children with  
8 disabilities in the regular classroom, and (e) prereferral  
9 alternatives, referral systems, multidisciplinary team  
10 responsibilities, the individualized education plan process, and the  
11 placement process;

12           (8) Special services means supportive services provided to  
13 students that do not primarily involve teaching, including, but not  
14 limited to, (a) audiology, psychology, and physical or occupational  
15 therapy, (b) the coaching of extracurricular activities, and (c)  
16 subject areas for which endorsement programs are not offered by a  
17 standard institution of higher education; and

18           (9) Standard institution of higher education means any  
19 college or university, the teacher education programs of which are  
20 fully approved by the board or approved in another state pursuant to  
21 standards which are comparable and equivalent to those set by the  
22 board.

23           Sec. 3. Original section 79-807, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
24 Nebraska, is repealed.